County Councillor John Reynolds - April 12th 2014

County Report April 2014

Greater Cambridge City Deal

The Chancellor announced in the Budget statement on 19 March that a City Deal has been agreed for Greater Cambridge (defined as the combined area of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire). This will see Government allocate up to £500m to Greater Cambridge – £100m in the period 2015-19 and up to a further £400m following depending on the achievement of certain triggers, for investment in transport infrastructure. As part of the deal, there will be a mechanism to tailor apprenticeship funding to meet the needs of local employers. There are also plans to form a more integrated governance arrangement with Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, the LEP and University of Cambridge; initially through a Joint Committee with the intention of moving to a Combined Authority should legislation be changed to allow this.

The Council's Cabinet considered a report on 24 March followed by Full Council on 25 March. Reports will also go through the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Member processes in the coming weeks, followed by the signing of a deal document.

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Connecting Cambridgeshire

Destination Digital, the project to help thousands of small businesses across Cambridgeshire get online and use digital technology has had a successful first few weeks. Over 70 businesses have already been helped with free business support, discounts to purchase digital products and vouchers to upgrade broadband connections. Free workshops offering training on digital technology for small businesses will be available in the coming months.

Find out more about Destination Digital by visiting: www.destinationdigital.info

All of the latest updates can also be found on Twitter (#DestinationDigital) and via our Linked In Group: http://Linkd.in/1dTYerD

Highways Capital Projects Delivery

Communities have been informed of the results of the Local Highway Improvement Member Panels. 85 applications have been successful from the 146 applications in securing County Council funding for community led improvements to the highways. Work includes alterations to speed limits, footway construction, installation of new pedestrian crossings and traffic calming.

Pilot of Children's Traffic Club in Fenland and Cambridge

Children's Traffic Club is now being piloted in the Fenland and Cambridge districts. This is an award winning road safety programme for 3 and 4 year olds which has seen improvements in road safety, including reductions in child road casualties in other areas.

The Club will target parents through their child's nursery/pre-school and includes a series of interactive DVD resources which are mailed direct to families over the course of 12 months. The pilot project will examine take-up by parents from different demographics and consider whether the improvements in road safety seen elsewhere could be replicated in Cambridgeshire, with a view to rolling the Club out countywide.

Cycle Legacy Small Grant Fund: Second Round

Following a successful first round of applications for this small grants fund, four applications were successful in their bid for the 'up to £500' grant. With the second round of applications now closed, the panel are considering all applications received from the many communities and groups who are very keen to take part. The third and final round for applications closes 11 April.

Rock Road Community Hub

A local architect has been appointed to develop proposals for the internal remodeling of Rock Road Library. The library will be redeveloped as a community hub and will offer a community room, improved access to the community garden and a number of other improvements to the building. The project is being delivered in close partnership with the Friends of Rock Road Library using Section 106 funds and community led fundraising.

Tour De France

With the biggest annual sporting event in the world set to come to Cambridgeshire on Monday 7 July, the first road closure information for the Tour de France has been released. With such a large scale event residents, businesses and visitors are being given advance notification to help prepare for, plan and enjoy a unique day in Cambridge's history. In the build-up to the arrival of the Tour, detailed information will be given to residents, businesses and visitors regarding the impact of the race on Cambridge and the county. This will be made available online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/letourstage3 and www.cambridge.gov.uk/le-tour-cambridge, as well as through leaflets, roadshows and events.

Information will also be made available via Facebook (www.facebook.com/LeTourCambridge) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/LeTourCambridge)

Sham Marriages

Registration Officers are often involved in identifying potential cases of sham marriages and are legally obliged to report them to the UK Border Agency for possible investigation. If the cases go ahead staff can be required to give formal statements and potentially can be summoned to court. A recent investigation, Operation Tagor, has now concluded and resulted in 4 convictions for "Conspiracy to do an act to facilitate the commission of a breach of UK immigration law, Contrary to Section 1(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1977"; terms of imprisonment ranged from 16 months to two years.

More detailed information about sham marriage can be found on the Crown Prosecution Service web site at http://www.cps.gov.uk/

Spring Online

Beginning Monday 31 March, libraries will be holding a series of seminars and drop-ins to celebrate Spring Online, an award-winning initiative, which encourages people to 'get online' and to make more use of computers and other devices such as tablets and smartphones. The sessions will include demonstrations of the library eBooks, eAudio books, eMagazines and eNewspapers.

Street Lighting PFI

Street Lighting works have commenced in Cambridge City and the County Council is seeking to manage the expectations of residents of roads that contain existing cast iron columns. Discussions are currently taking place with senior officers and members of the City Council to identify a resolution of this issue, which continues to generate a high volume of enquires to officers in the County Council.

New project wide consultation leaflets have been produced for residents alongside a revised Members' Information Pack. Both of these publications have been designed to be more eye catching and will answer a greater number of enquiries at the first point of contact. A new Street Lighting website has also been developed to improve the interaction with residents and communities; this website will improve the consultation process by giving residents and Elected Members an early view of plans so that they are able to feed their input into the process at the earliest possible opportunity. This website is programmed to go live during the next two weeks.

Cycle City Ambition (GC3) Schemes | South Cambridgeshire links to employment sites and rail stations

Works are underway to construct a new foot/cycleway from Whittlesford station to Granta Park alongside the A505. Work is also underway on a new route linking Babraham Research Campus to Cambridge, for which the Research Campus has paid £200,000 towards scheme costs.

On the A10 south of Cambridge the existing narrow path has been widened and resurfaced, providing a much better route for pedestrians and cyclists in the Foxton, Shepreth and Melbourn area. Volunteers helped to reinstate and re-seed the grass verge. Work to construct a new path from Swavesey to Buckingway Business Park and Cambridge Services will also be starting soon. All of these schemes are funded from the Dft Cycle City Ambition fund, totaling £4.1million.

Bikeability cycle training

Nearly 4,000 pupils from Cambridgeshire schools have received Bikeability cycle training in the 2013/14 financial year, an increase on previous years. The on and off road training is delivered by Outspoken and Witchford School Sports partnership, and is wholly funded by Dft funding.

Better Bus Area Fund (BBAF)

Work continues apace to ensure that projects aimed at improving accessibility and use of buses in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are completed by April. Bus shelters are being installed in Babraham, Guilden Morden, Histon and Impington, Little Abington, Shepreth and Willingham as part of a wider scheme on offer to Parish Councils to improve their bus facilities. Bike stands and real time displays are also being installed in parishes across South Cambridgeshire.

Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

The Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire was adopted by Cabinet on 4th March; this will be a key supporting document when Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council's Local Plans are examined later this year. The strategy represents 18 months of close work with Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to develop a transport strategy that supports the development aspirations set out in their respective Local Plans. When the draft strategy was consulted on in summer 2013 over 76% of respondents agreed with the strategy's overall approach of increasing the use of sustainable transport while maintaining traffic levels at a similar level to now.

Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) & Negotiating a Growth Deal with Government

The LEP Board is due to submit a final version of the SEP by the end of March which will set out the LEP's vision for economic growth in this area. This will include priorities for supporting growth and continued economic prosperity, and will form the basis for agreeing a growth deal with Government across the LEP area.

Transport is a key priority for the SEP; other priorities include digital connectivity and skills. The County Council led the development of a transport programme which was endorsed by the Shadow Local Transport Body (LTB) at its meeting on 7 March, and recommended this for inclusion in the Final SEP. The transport programme is seeking investment for major schemes, local projects, and local sustainable transport and trunk road/major rail schemes. Further details can be found on the following link:
http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CMSWebsite/Apps/Committees/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=780

Assessment of the SEP and negotiation of the Growth Deal is expected to complete by July 2014 with allocations available from April 2015.

Travel for Work

Last Friday (14th March) the Travel for Work Partnership held their successful Annual Travel Plan Awards event at Alconbury Enterprise Zone in partnership with Peterborough City's Travel Choice team. A total of 33 employers (of which 22 were TfW Employers) received
Awards.

The awards recognise employer achievements in writing and implementing workplace travel plan to promote sustainable and healthy commuting to work and business travel. The Keynote speaker was the LEP's CEO Grahame Nix OBE, who gave a great overview of the work of the LEP the ambitious and exciting growth agenda and how developers and employers implementing travel plans can help alleviate the transport pressures that such development can cause.

Environmental Forum on A14 Upgrade

Planning officers have attended two meetings within a series, planned to consider the environmental issues surrounding the A14 and proposed mineral borrow pits.

Infilling of Barrington Cement Works Quarry

The scheme for partial infilling of Barrington Cement Works Quarry now looks as if it will be implemented as contractual arrangements are being implemented to re-build the private Barrington Light Railway which runs between Foxton sidings and the former cement works. Waste materials will be imported by rail over a number of years.

Extension of Landfill site at Kennett

A planning application to change the profile of a landfill site and revised vehicular access on the former quarry land at Kennett has been submitted.

Changes to rail access to aggregates rail terminal, Chesterton Sidings

A planning application to relocate the rail siding to Tarmac Lafarge Aggregates Rail terminal at Chesterton Sidings, Cambridge has been submitted. Change would result in the removal of existing siding to facilitate redevelopment of underused former sidings land.

Cambourne Primary School

A planning application for a new primary school within the grounds of the new secondary school has been submitted. Transport and design issues are under negotiation.

Re-configuration of final landform at Buckden Landfill site

There are planning issues involved in framing a recommendation for the re-configuration of final landform at Buckden Landfill site and these are currently the subject of legal consultation

Retention of noise attenuation barrier, metal recycling yard, off Swans Road Cambridge

The County Council are currently awaiting an Environmental Impact Assessment screening decision by the Secretary of State before the next course of action can be pursued in relation to the retention of noise attenuation barrier, metal recycling yard, off Swans Road Cambridge

Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership – £900,000 Grant Awarded

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme (OWLP) a grant of £905,100 through its Landscape Partnership programme to deliver a diverse and exciting activity programme between April 2014 and March 2017.

The OWLP area covers five Districts and 29 Parishes over 50 km from Downham Market in Norfolk to St. Ives in Cambridgeshire. Three teams and Board Members from Cambridgeshire County Council have developed archaeological, archive research and access projects for the scheme.

Led by Cambridgeshire Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE), the OWLP Partnership consists of 27 organisations and aims to improve community interaction, learning, conservation and participation through project work to maintain and safeguard the OWLP area's inherent landscape beauty, its wetland habitats of international importance and its hidden archaeological and historical gems.

The OWLP scheme will be used as a vehicle through which this overlooked yet highly distinctive landscape will be promoted as a tourist destination, full of significant cultural heritage and local traditions, rare and protected biodiversity and unique drainage engineering assets.

For further details please see:
http://ousewasheslps.wordpress.com/2014/03/11/nearly-1m-granted-to-owlp-scheme/

Better Care Fund (BCF) update

The national deadline for submission of Better Care Fund plans is the 4th April. We anticipate that our plan will be as specific as possible on the care bill and the national conditions, while still leaving us scope to further develop the more transformational projects and schemes beyond the April deadline.

We have already mapped out the current projects that support BCF related work and how these are governed. Engagement with, and support for, the BCF has been very high. 129 proposals have been received from organisations including the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), local community groups, and charities. The desire to develop these proposals, as well as to link in with the CCG's older people's programme and 5 year plan has been a key focus of our work on the BCF. We have been in talks with NHS England to explain our ambitions for the more transformative and innovative elements of our plan.

The next step will be to further develop the final BCF plan, particularly in collaboration with colleagues at the CCG. We will be drawing up specific plans for meeting the requirements of the Care Bill and the national conditions, and continuing to work with partners to ensure that the transformational and innovative elements of the plan can continue to be developed post the 4th of April.

Brokerage

The Older People's Services and Mental Health Directorate have been working with the Clinical Commissioning Group to establish a single purchasing unit for residential, nursing and home based care. The intention is that the Cambridgeshire Brokerage service will identify all placement requirements and negotiate prices directly with service providers for the Local Authority and the NHS. It is also intended that this service will be offered to self-funders to enable them to maximise their resources, in part to reduce demands on the Local Authority purse.

The advantage of this approach is that it will increase purchasing power, reduce inefficiencies, improve the service user experience and save money. Potential annual savings for the County Council ranging from £90K to £600K have been identified (and considerably more for the health economy as a whole). A phased approach is underway, initially concentrating in Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire (as these are the areas with the greatest challenges). The service will be rolled out to become countywide by July 2014.

Hospital Discharge

We are continuing to treat hospital discharge as a high priority and work is continuing in all three of the main hospital systems in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The biggest challenge is within the Addenbrookes system; however there has been considerable progress. Concentrated work has produced a 23% year on year improvement in lost bed days, equating to 2000 bed days per annum. Overall Cambridgeshire has seen an improvement of 13% for all Cambridgeshire residents in hospital. While this is a strong indicator of an improving position, Cambridgeshire remains a poor performer in comparison to other local authorities and there are undoubtedly further improvements in performance to be made. There are also issues about data reporting in Addenbrookes and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust that have an inflationary impact on our figures; these matters have been addressed and a process has been agreed to rectify.

Action for Children

Children's Social Care, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG, Action for Children and Cambridgeshire Community Services have been working together successfully for just over 2 years now to provide residential short breaks for a number of children at Woodland Lodge in Huntingdon and Haviland Way in Cambridge. From July 2014 Woodland Lodge will be used for all the short breaks and Haviland Way will become a shared / long term care home providing a new resource for the county, in line with the Placement Strategy. This is a significant service improvement but there will be issues to address for the families of 11 children whose short breaks will move from Haviland Way to woodland Lodge; a process of individual planning will be undertaken with each family.

Free and confidential advice about support for adults with long-term needs and carers

A series of drop-in events providing free and confidential information and advice to adults living with a long-term illness or disability, older people struggling with an age-related condition or anyone providing unpaid support to adult family members or friends who could not manage without this help are continuing with three new locations added for the Spring /early Summer drop-ins. Each session will include a guest speaker. More detailed information about the drop-ins and details of the guest speakers for April, May and June can be found on www.cambridgeshire.net and searching "Adult Support Drop-in".

Social Work

We are currently reviewing the Systemic training we have been offering to staff with a view to deciding what our training offer in the future should be. I am pleased to say that 111 of our CSW's and SW's have completed the first year certificate course in systemic training underpinning our new way of working with families. Recruitment continues; we are shortly due to interview 11 social worker applicants who have already passed 2 written assessments, so we are optimistic that there will be a good rate of translation into job offers. We have also recently seconded a further 3 of our Social Workers into Consultant Social Worker roles, continuing our policy of growing our own and offering good progression opportunities to our staff. Our 2 clinical leads are also reducing their working hours which will offer an opportunity for acting up within the clinical team.

Annual Re-Assessments for People in Permanent Care

Every year Cambridgeshire County Council's financial assessment team undertakes approximately 1,900 annual re-assessments for people in permanent care. The re-assessment is undertaken to ensure the client contribution to their permanent care placement takes account of the increase to the Department of Health's capital limits and personal allowance amounts alongside any increases to welfare benefits.

Of these 1,900, approximately 800 people have capital that is very low or no capital and a basic level of benefits. As the level of increases to their welfare benefits is known, the assessed client contribution for these 800 people can be recalculated without the need to issue forms to obtain updated information. The financial assessment team will then notify the individual of the revised amount and provide full details of the new levels of income; that person can then advise the financial assessment team of any income levels that are not representative and provide updated capital information so that a revised client contribution can be undertaken. This will streamline the process and income collection for the Local Authority as well as simplify the process for individuals

Cambridgeshire's Child Health Profiles 2014

Public Health England released local authority Child Health Profiles on 19th March. The Child Health Profile for Cambridgeshire provides a snapshot of child health outcomes and indicators in Cambridgeshire and compares these with the national average. It is designed to help the local authority and health services improve the health and wellbeing of children and tackle health inequalities.

The link to the Child Health Profiles is:
www.chimat.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=101746&REGION=101633

Sports Relief

Over 75 volunteers from across the Council helped take phone calls raising £75,000 on the night for Comic Relief contributed to another successful year of supporting Sport Relief through the provision of a call donation centre.

During the evening the atmosphere in the Contact Centre was terrific, with the 'CCC Does Comic Relief' organising team decorating the venue, and themselves, to match the chosen 'Carnival' theme. Everyone joined in the spirit of the evening by wearing fancy dress and getting involved in the evening's fun packed party games and raffle. This raised a further £200.

Public County Council meetings in April

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
15th	10.00 am	CABINET	Shire Hall, Cambridge
16th	10.30 am	Joint Development Control Committee: Cambridge Fringes	The Guildhall, Cambridge CB2 3QJ
24th	10.30 am	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
22nd	2.00 pm	Constitution and Ethics Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
23rd	10.00 am	Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee (*provisional*)	South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne CB23 6EA
30th	10.00 am	Children's Trust Board	South Fens Business Centre, Chatteris PE16 6TT

Visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk for more information about the meetings, including agendas and reports, access arrangements and facilities for people with special mobility or other needs, and how to make your views known to the Council.

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All or part of these meetings are likely to be held in private on the grounds that they are considering exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed.

DATE	TIME	MEETING	VENUE
15th	10.00 am	Cabinet [information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)]	Shire Hall, Cambridge
24th	10.00 am	Service Appeals Committee [information relating to any individual] (provisional)	Cambridge or March

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